

Attorney Docket No.: ABLE-0021  
Inventors: Secombes et al.  
Serial No.: 10/088,780  
Filing Date: July 22, 2002  
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the claims:**

Claims 1-75 (canceled)

Claim 76 (currently amended): A gene construct for protection of a fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) comprising:

a non-infectious DNA nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus-neutralizing single chain antibody BU1 comprising Genebank Accession Number AF302092 with a DNA sequence

cagtgtgcta acatgagggc agtgtgtttg atgctgactg ccttattgat  
gctggaatat gtgtgccgga gtgaccaggt gcagctgcag gagtcaggac  
ctggcctcgt gaaaccttct cagtctctgt ctctcacctg ctctgtcact  
ggctactcca tcaccagtgg ttattactgg acctggatcc ggcagtttcc  
aggaaataaa ctggaatgga tgggctacat aagctacgac ggtaccaata  
actacaaccc atctctcaca aatcgaatct ccatcactcg tgacacatct  
aagaaccagt ttttctgaa gttgaaatct gtgactactg aggacacagc  
tacatattac tgtgtaagag ggatctacta tggtaacgac tggtttgctt  
actggggcca agggaccacg gtcaccgtct cctcagaagg caaatcttct  
ggctctggct ctgaatctaa agtggatgac atcgagctca cccagtctcc  
tgctcccag tctgcatctc tgggagaaag tgtcaccatc acatgcctgg-  
caagtcagac cattggtaca tggttagcat ggtatcaaca gaaaccaggg  
aaatctctc agctcctgat ttatgctgca accagtttgg cagatggggg  
cccatcaagg ttcagtggta gtggatctgg cacaaaattt tctttcaaga  
tcagcagcct acaggctgaa gattttgtaa gttattactg tcaacaactt  
tacagtactc cgtacacgtt cggagggggg accaagctcg agatcaaacg

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gactgtggct gcaccatctg tcttcatctt cccgccatct gatgagcagt  
tgaaatctgg aactgcctct gttgtgtgcc tgctgaataa cttctatccc  
agagaggcca aagtacagtg gaagggtgat aacgccctcc aatcgggtaa  
ctcccaggag agtgtcacag agcaggacag caaggacagc acctacagcc  
tcagcagcac cctgacgctg agcaaagcag actacgagaa acacaaagtc  
tacgcctgcg aagtcacca tcagggcctg agttcgcccgc tcacaaagag  
cttcaaccgc ggagagtcac aagttagata tccat (SEQ ID NO:1)  
encoding a secretion signal of transforming growth factor  
beta linked to the 5' end of the single chain antibody  
BU1 gene, said sequence being inserted into a  
plasmid downstream a CMV promoter and upstream a poly  
adenylation signal.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A composition for  
passive immunization comprising the gene construct of claim  
76.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A method for  
prophylactically treating fish against viral haemorrhagic  
septicaemia virus comprising administering the composition  
of claim 77 to a fish via injection to the epaxial muscle  
below the dorsal fin of the fish.